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# JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES— PARTNERS.

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THE geographical relation of Japan and the United States is such that they can never come into collision with each other. All the nations of Europe, and America, are looking for new markets for their industries, and the only market now remaining which can be exploited with benefit is the continent of Asia. And with Asia as the goal of international trade, what nations stand in the most advantageous position to garner the fruit of her commerce? Clearly, they are the United States and Japan.

Now let us examine the coast line of the United States. Beginning at Alaska with its littoral fronting British Columbia, down through Oregon and Southern California, then through the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and the Philippines, the United States occupies almost two-thirds of the whole coast of the Pacific Ocean; while the remaining one-third is held by Japan, beginning with Formosa, adjoining the Philippines, and including Loo-choo, the Kurile Islands and the newly acquired territory of Saghalin. With the exception of Kamchatka, which is Russian, the whole Pacific Ocean is the common waterway of the international trade of the United States and Japan. Therefore, these two nations, if they undertake to exploit Asiatic trade, need have no fear of any rival stepping in. Japan stands nearest to the Asiatic market, and next comes the United States.

All the nations of Europe must send their goods to Asia either by way of the Cape of Good Hope or through the Suez Canal and across the Indian Ocean, a long and expensive route. The natural advantages favor Japan and the United States beyond measure. Hence, we find the tonnage of American and

Japanese shipping on the Pacific increasing year by year, as a glance at the statistics will show, and the volume of American and Japanese trade with Asiatic countries growing enormously. These facts are matters of record and easily ascertained.

Moreover, a prominent factor in the international relation is the submarine cable which connects San Francisco, Honolulu, Guam, the Philippines and the continent of Asia. This is an American line. By this line the Japanese can send commercial telegrams to Asia with the greatest speed and at the cheapest rate. Thus the shipping interest and the submarine cable connect the United States, Japan and Asia so intimately that any misunderstanding or friction or irritation between the United States and Japan is bound to affect instantly the trade of the three.

Now, as we all know, the first object of diplomacy to-day is to extend our commercial influence among other nations and increase our international commerce. If diplomats will but bear this principle in mind, how can they permit such important relations of these great peoples to be disturbed by the mere whim of politicians or of ambitious statesmen who would play a high-handed policy in international questions? Any rash action on the part of the Government would react very heavily and instantly upon the purse of the people. And here we have the most powerful influence to keep the ambition of politicians and statesmen at bay.

In the twentieth century the sole object of diplomacy is to keep near neighbors in cordial relationship so that they may benefit themselves and each other in the exchange of merchandise to mutual advantage.

So much for theory. Now I shall state the actual relations of the United States and Japan in commerce. What Japan supplies to the United States can never be produced in that country, namely, raw silk, tea and artistic goods. Although efforts have been made many times to raise the mulberry and cocoon and tea in the southern parts of the United States, these could not be grown with profit, and, as I am informed, the Americans have abandoned the idea. The three articles I mention are peculiarly the products of the Japanese people. Government statistics show that, in the year ending December 31st, 1906, the raw silk exported from Japan amounted to 120,000,000 yen (equal to

\$60,000,000), out of which ninety per cent. went to the United States. The amount of tea we exported last year was 40,000,000 yen (\$20,000,000), which was sent largely to the United States and Canada.

So I can fairly state that no lady in the United States can get a silk dress if we stop the export of silk to that country, and that the average American citizen cannot drink tea if our tea is excluded from America. So much for the dependence of the American people on Japanese products.

But if any American will study closely the condition of Japanese life, he will simply be amazed to find how much we depend upon American products. In the ordinary upper or middle class families in Japan, we get up in the morning from a bed whose sheets are made of American cotton, put on the Japanese costume, which is made from American cotton, eat bread whose flour comes from Minnesota, and take a cup of tea with condensed milk from Chicago and sugar from the Philippines, Hawaii or the southern United States. After breakfast, we light a cigarette or take a puff at a pipe. In either the tobacco used comes from Virginia, Tennessee or some other American State. We take up our morning newspapers whose pages are of paper imported from Milwaukee or western Connecticut. So great is the extent of Japanese dependence upon the United States. We cannot raise raw cotton. Of the raw cotton imported into Japan, seventy-five per cent. comes from the United States. Condensed milk, tobacco leaf, flour and paper we cannot either raise or make in our country at prices lower than the Americans charge.

At night, all our streets, in every city, town and hamlet, from the extreme north of Kurile to the extreme south of Formosa, are lit with petroleum which comes from West Virginia or Pennsylvania. So, then, the United States feeds us, clothes us and gives us light. The Japanese cannot live a single hour without American supplies.

Now, let us look at the industrial plants. Baldwin locomotives, telephones, electric apparatus, street-cars and practically all the machines in small shops are imported from the United States. These imports are increasing year by year, while at the same time our exports to the United States are increasing with equal rapidity. Since the United States Government has taken up its policy of expansion toward the west the trade of the two

nations, far from conflicting, is growing without any collision or disadvantage to either party. Politicians and business men are aware, through their daily reports and commercial information, of the facts I have cited. Therefore it is that the people of Japan feel that under these circumstances the two nations are destined to play an important rôle in extending their trade into the continent of Asia, and that it is their natural function to open up China to international trade.

Since the commerce of the two nations is so closely interwoven and increasing to the benefit of both, no ambitious politician can sever such a relation by his political schemes, because the people will not stand it, will prevent any action that tends to put an end to a mutual benefit. At the moment this is written, with the school question unsettled, the American-Japanese situation might be likened to that between the United States and England more than half a century ago when the commercial relation of the two countries prevented the possibility of their making war upon each other. I heard an anecdote when I was in London a few years ago which makes the point very clear. At the time of a certain burning question between Great Britain and the United States, Lord Granville, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Motley, the American Minister, sat together in the office of the former. The air was full of rumors of war.

"Mr. Motley," said Lord Granville, "there is no use of our discussing this matter diplomatically. I ask you for a simple answer to one question: 'Shall it be war or peace?'"

There practically was an ultimatum delivered to Mr. Motley. He sat at ease for a few moments; then replied: "If your Lordship thinks that war is the only form of settlement of this question, I have only one suggestion to make."

"And that is?"

"That you burn Liverpool by your order and our Government will burn the city of New York."

This reply at once brought a smile to the face of Lord Granville.

"Mr. Motley," he said, "I see your point. We will not talk any further of war."

For at that moment Liverpool warehouses were full of American raw material, whereas in New York there was a great stock of British manufactured goods. Such intimate relations of in-

ternational commerce formed the best guarantee of peace. The burning question was arranged in a friendly way.

Let us see how that condition of facts applies to the present situation. Japan sends raw material to the United States and the United States sends manufactured goods to Japan. If we sever our relations and fight each other, the commercial ties between the two nations would be shattered, and the Chinese market would fall into the hands of England, Germany and France. Thus the United States and Japan, no matter how favored by their geographical advantages on the Pacific Ocean and by their means of quick communication by the submarine cable, would lose all the benefit of the Asiatic trade. I need not stop to point out how very necessary that market is to both countries. Would that be a wise diplomatic policy which should sever our united nations? Can the people stand a policy so detrimental to international comity? I repeat that in the twentieth century it is the increase and expansion of international commerce that guides the policy of the nations.

Besides the material arguments for peace, we must remember that America and Japan have been friends ever since the advent of Commodore Perry. There has never arisen between them one troublesome question, their diplomatic relations have always remained cordial, and the trade of the two nations has increased within the last thirty years with unparalleled rapidity.

And I might prophesy that commerce between the two countries will be trebled when the Panama Canal is completed. Cotton and tobacco will come from Galveston and New Orleans through the Canal direct to Yokohama, instead of going across the Atlantic to Gibraltar and around by way of the Indian Ocean. American petroleum, heavy machinery and flour, which now have to cross the Atlantic to reach us, will come through the Canal. In one word, the Isthmian Canal will bring the American Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico much nearer to Yokohama than they are to-day.

So we see clearly that Japan and the United States, friends of half a century, still have vital need of each other, to say nothing of the prospect of great mutual benefit through united effort in Asia. And the suggestion that the American or Japanese people would tolerate any hostile policy by their statesmen cannot be for one moment believed.

KENTARO KANEKO.